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TITLE: AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINE  
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**INVENTOR-INFORMATION:**

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**ABSTRACT:**

PURPOSE: To provide an automatic vending machine in which number of inventory commodities is simply and accurately confirmed.

CONSTITUTION: The automatic vending machine 10 has a microcomputer 26 in its inside and an operation box 28 having a ten-key and various function setting keys is connected to the microcomputer 26 via an I/O port 38. A display section 29 is provided on the operation box 28. Furthermore, a position sensor 51 provided on each column 12 is connected respectively to the microcomputer 26. Both upper and lower ends of each column 12 are open and the position sensor 51 is arranged to the upper opening of each column 12. The position sensor 51 emits an ultrasonic wave or an infrared ray or the like, for example, to sense a distance L1 between the position sensor 51 and a commodity at the uppermost part of commodities 52 stacked in the column 12.

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